

(b) the amount disbursed for the development of these Kendras during each of the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for keeping these Kendras just as a relay Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) All India Radio, Rajkot is equipped with 300 KW MW High Power Transmitter for main channel and 1 KW MW Transmitter for Vividh Bharati Service. It has Type-III Studios and is a fulfilled regional station. There is no All India Radio Station at Porbandar.

(b) During the last three years, i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, expenditure to the tune of Rs. 172.69 lakhs, Rs. 180.62 lakhs and Rs. 198.37% lakhs, respectively has been incurred on operation and maintenance of AIR, Rajkot Station.

(c) All India Radio, Rajkot is a fullfledged Radio Station.

Cleanliness at Bangalore City Railway Station

2467. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are no proper arrangements for cleanliness at the Bangalore City Railway station;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether there is any proposal to impose fine on those who spit or throw garbages at the Railway stations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Proper arrangements for cleanliness do exist at the Station.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Punitive provisions already exist in the law for prosecuting the persons indulging in acts of spitting, defecating, urinating and throwing litter etc. in station premises and in trains at other than nominated places, toilets/urinals, wastebins/garbagebins etc. Railway have been directed to invoke these provisions, wherever necessary.

[Translation]

Construction of Over Bridge in Kota

2468. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to construct an over bridge at level crossing on National Highway at Kulhari in Kota District of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the half of the cost is to be borne by the State Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The proposal is to take up the work on deposit terms i.e. Rajasthan State Electricity Board has to bear full cost of the work.

(d) Depends upon receipt of firm proposal from Rajasthan State Electricity Board.

Gram Panchayat Telephones

2469. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme of providing telephone facility to each Gram Panchayat is not being implemented in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by when telephone facility is likely to be provided to the Gram Panchayats of district Almora and Pithauragarh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir, the scheme of providing public telephone is being implemented as per DOT policy for providing public telephone in every village including Gram Panchayats. All villages including Gram Panchayats will be covered by the end of Ninth Plan period.

Railway Stations/Junctions

2470. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of railway stations/junctions in Bhopal, Bilaspur, Jabalpur railway divisions of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of the platforms of the stations among the above junctions/stations where tea stall, contracts of refreshment stalls, milk parlour, Book stall and Telephone Booths have been allotted to the educated unemployed and handicapped persons belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes;

(c) the policy adopted by the Government in regard to providing the said contracts;

(d) the percentage of reservation provided in these contracts;

(e) whether the reservation norms meant for the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes have been followed while making the said allotments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Insurance Scheme

2471. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of insurance scheme introduced by the Government for the benefit of railway passengers;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to increase the insurance amount to be provided to the dependents those killed and injured in rail accidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to bring in any amendment in this regard; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said amendment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The salient features of the Railway Passengers Insurance Scheme are as under :

1. Under this scheme, Railway pay compensation for loss of life or injuries to bonafide passengers holding tickets or pass including railwaymen on duty who become victims of untoward incidents such as terrorist acts, violent attack, robbery, dacoity, rioting, shoot-out or arson by any person in or on any train carrying passengers, or in a waiting hall, clockroom or reservation or booking office or on any platform or in any place within the precincts of a railway station or the accidental falling of any passenger from a train carrying passengers. Similarly compensation is also paid for death or injury to bonafide rail passengers or railwaymen on duty in a train accident.

2. The scale of compensation available under this scheme is provided in the Railway Accident (Compensation) Rules, 1990. Under these rules, the compensation in case of death or permanent disability is Rs. 2 lakhs, and in case of injuries the minimum compensation is Rs. 16,000/- and the maximum is Rs. 1,80,000/-

3. No compensation will, however, be payable in cases of suicide or attempted suicide, self-inflicted injury,

his own criminal act, or any act committed in a state of intoxication or insanity or natural death or disease medical or surgical treatment unless such treatment becomes necessary due to injury caused by the said 'untoward incident'.

4. The application for compensation is adjudicated by Railway Claims Tribunal. Twenty one Benches of this Tribunal have been set up in different parts of the country. The decrees of the Railway Claims Tribunal are satisfied by the Zonal Railways after following the normal procedure.

(b) to (e) Keeping in view of the rise in Consumer Price Index, a proposal is under consideration to increase the amount of compensation to be paid to the dependents of dead and injured rail passengers and platform ticket holders who are involved in train accidents or untoward incidents as defined under Sections 124 and 124-A of the Railways Act, 1989. After a decision is taken in the matter, a notification prescribing the enhanced rates of compensation will be issued.

[English]

Wastage of Newsprint

2472. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the normal wastage of newsprint in a newspaper;

(b) the details of those newspapers which have shown a high percentage of wastage during 1996 and upto July, 1997;

(c) whether the Government have enquired into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the remedial measure proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) No such information is maintained by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Export of Iron Ore

2473. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether iron ore extracted from Kudremukh area in Karnataka is being exported to Japan;

(b) if so, the quantity exported during the last three years;